

The Afghanistan Study Group offered some prescriptions and alternatives, including political reconciliation; an emphasis on regional diplomacy; and investments in Afghanistan's economic development—all of which are developments of the SMART security plan that I've been promoting for years.

But instead of heeding this advice, we're pressing forward stubbornly with failed policy. And the more it fails, the more resources we devote to it. As Robert Dreyfuss writes in *The Nation*, the prevailing wisdom (if you can call it that) seems to be . . . if sending 30,000 troops to the wrong place isn't getting results, sending 30,000 more to that same wrong place might help, and then when that doesn't work, why, send another 30,000 troops."

□ 1450

Madam Speaker, conditions in Afghanistan have gotten so bad that humanitarian groups can't move freely to deliver the aid that is so badly needed. The gruesome murders of medical aid workers last month underscored the deteriorating security situation. The *New York Times* cites the Afghan NGO Safety Office as saying there were more than twice the number of insurgent attacks this August than August of 2009.

I don't agree with everything the Afghanistan Study Group has to say. In fact, by calling for a gradual military drawdown, I believe they are just not being bold enough. But Madam Speaker, this disastrous war has gone on long enough. It's done enough damage. It's time now to bring our troops home.

DEPARTMENT OF NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, for 10 years the House of Representatives, under the leadership of DUNCAN HUNTER and IKE SKELTON, have brought to the floor of the House in our Armed Services bill language to honor and respect the Marine Corps by changing the name of the Department of Navy to be known as the Department of Navy and Marine Corps. For 10 years we sent this language over to the Senate. For 10 years the Senate rejected the House position.

This year, under the leadership of IKE SKELTON and BUCK McKEON, the Armed Services Committee decided to bring this language to the floor as what's called a stand-alone bill. We had 425 House Members—there are only 435—425 signed this bill to recognize the Navy and Marine Corps as one fighting team. And the bill passed the House, as you know, Madam Speaker, by what's called unanimous consent.

Well, at that period of time Senator PAT ROBERTS from Kansas, a former Marine officer, put the same bill in. It's what is called a companion bill. And by

the time we had passed our bill, he had 80 Senators in the U.S. Senate sign his companion bill to rename the Department of Navy to be Navy and Marine Corps.

Madam Speaker, I have said many times in the last few weeks that I don't think you could get 80 Senators to agree there is a Santa Claus. But the Senators do recognize the importance of honoring the Marine Corps by letting them share in the name of the family, the family being the Navy and Marine Corps family.

It's my hope if the Senate brings this bill up next week, or the week after, or maybe during a lame duck session, that Senator ROBERTS will offer an amendment to that debate on the Senate side. And I would hope that those 80 Senators that have signed his bill will vote to honor and give this respect to the Marine Corps.

Madam Speaker, a year ago this September we did a news conference, the Marine Corps League, and we had generals here, former commandants to speak on behalf of the bill. But two people I wanted to make quick reference to. One was Eddie Wright. Eddie Wright is from Texas. He is a young Marine—he is not in the Marine Corps now—but he lost both hands in Iraq. He has picks for his hands. And he said at the news conference that, "If it had not been for a Navy corpsman, I would be dead. But he saved my life. We are one fighting team. And it should be in the name."

Madam Speaker, I have got these posters, as I begin to close. This is the real thrust of what we are trying to do. There would be no cost to the Department of Navy if we changed its name to be Department of Navy and Marine Corps. But this is an actual condolence letter that a Marine captain who was killed for this country—the family received this condolence letter. And Madam Speaker, it says at the top the Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D.C., with the Navy flag, extends its condolence to this Marine who died. It's almost like it's a stepchild. It's not really part of the family. All we're trying to do, Madam Speaker, is to make this one family.

Madam Speaker, I am now showing that this same family whose loved one was killed, if this bill becomes law, the Secretary of the Navy and Marine Corps, with the Navy flag and the Marine flag will send the condolence letter to the Marine family.

Madam Speaker, it's time that we do this for the Marine Corps. I want to thank my House colleagues who have helped us with this for 10 years. And I hope that the Senate will certainly support Senator ROBERTS in honoring the Marine Corps by renaming it the Department of Navy and Marine Corps.

Madam Speaker, as I do every time before I close, I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform. I ask God to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. I ask God in his loving arms to hold the families

who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq.

I will ask God to please bless the House and Senate that we will do what is right in the eyes of God. I will ask God to please bless the President, Mr. Obama, that he will do what is right in the eyes of God. And three times I will say, God, please, God, please, please, God, continue to bless America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING THE LIFE OF BEULAH SHEPARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, this is a special time that we have an opportunity to listen closely to our colleagues and to share some of the pearls of those who live in the United States with our colleagues. And it gives me great pleasure to be able to come today and to express my deepest love and affection for a wonderful woman, a woman of strength, who has gone home to rest and to receive joy.

Beulah Shepard is a very special person in the eyes of our community, Houston and Texas. And today I stand on the floor of the House to call her an American hero. Beulah Shepard passed away this last week, and so we have only our memories. But I want to say to those of you who have known someone that has touched your life, let me just simply tell you the story of my friend Beulah Shepard.

She of course was a mother, was a wife. She has children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. And of course she understood the Constitution, and believed in one vote for every human being. I had a chance to talk to her wonderful daughters, Bobbie and Dianne, and the wonderful family that she has as she lived her last years. And I will tell you our community will remember her as a political icon, someone you went to if you knew what was right, if you wanted to be part of the Houston political community.

But my husband and I know her as friends. And she greeted us as a young couple, and told us how to stay on the straight and narrow. I know her wonderful grandson, who was challenged, and how she was endeared with him. And everywhere Sister Beulah went, her grandson went with her. I loved watching him grow up.

Yes, a political icon she was. But she was more than that. As a mother she loved, as a grandmother she loved. But she believed in public service, not in just the idea of the name of politicians. She believed that if you accepted the